

Appendix D: Historic Trails in Nevada

Pony Express National Historic Trail

<http://www.nps.gov/poex/>

Begun in 1860 as a mail route connecting the eastern United States to the new state of California, this privately financed operation lasted 18 months before it was supplanted by telegraph wires. Dozens of riders relayed the mail around the clock over mountain and desert, averaging 10 days from Saint Joseph, Missouri, to Sacramento, California. Highway signs mark many portions of the route today.

California National Historic Trail

<http://www.nps.gov/cali/>

After gold was found at Sutter's Mill in California in 1848, the California Gold Rush took many paths. Most gold seekers set out from towns along the Missouri River and followed the Platte and North Platte rivers west to cross the Rockies at South Pass. The network of trail cutoffs and variants has been described as a rope with frayed ends. It was created by different starting and destination points; changing weather, water and feed conditions; and the desire to find a better, faster and easier route. In just the years 1849 and 1850, 70,000 people crossed.

Old Spanish National Historic Trail

<http://www.nps.gov/olsp/>

Opened by the Santa Fe trader Antonio Armijo in 1829, this trail connected Santa Fe to Los Angeles across Mexico's northern frontier. In the years that followed, Mexicans, Americans and Indians traded wool products, horses, mules and human captives along the trail. Trappers, prospectors, explorers, immigrants, and slavers also used the trail. Commerce on the trail

declined quickly after the war between the United States and Mexico in 1848. Today's route connects noted natural landmarks, springs, mountain and canyon passes, and historic towns.

American Discovery Trail

<http://www.discoverytrail.org/>

Stretching across more than 6,800 miles and 15 states, the American Discovery Trail is the only coast-to-coast non-motorized recreational trail. The trail in Nevada is composed of nine (9) segments totaling 496 miles, largely on isolated, relatively unused dirt roads.